



The Urban Lab of
Europe!

JOURNAL

PROJECT

BeSecure-FeelSecure -
Holistic Urban Security
Governance Framework
for Monitoring,
Assessing and
Forecasting the
Efficiency, Sustainability
and Resilience of
Piraeus

📍 Piraeus, Greece

TOPIC

Urban security

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Zoom in 1 - Crime Victims Information Unit

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website



One of the most important milestones of the Be Secure-Feel Secure (BSFS) is the establishment of the Crime Victims Information Unit (METHE) in the Municipality of Piraeus. This Zoom-in goes into detail about this initiative.

BE SECURE FEEL SECURE
ZOOM-IN ON...

CRIME VICTIMS INFORMATION UNIT

ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT MILESTONES OF THE BESECURE-FEELSECURE (BSFS) IS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CRIME VICTIMS INFORMATION UNIT (METHE) IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF PIRAEUS.

BY EDNA PEZA-RAMÍREZ, UIA EXPERT

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First... what is a victim?

A victim is defined as a person who has suffered physical or emotional harm, property damage, or economic loss as a result of a crime.

A person should be considered to be a victim regardless of whether an offender is identified, apprehended or convicted and regardless of the familial relationship between them.

Why is a victim support unit needed?

Victimization does not always end when the incident has passed or by getting authorities involved: trauma, physical or economic damage can continue over time. And going through the criminal justice system can be overwhelming and/or confusing for the victim.

A victim support unit can give crime victims appropriate assistance to ease their recovery and help them with sufficient access to justice giving them information, advice, or directing them to the adequate services or experts. It can also assess the specific needs of the victims. Victim support services can also help to ease the communication between law enforcement and the victim.

The Crime Victims Information Unit in Piraeus

(ΜΟΝΑΔΑ ΕΝΗΜΕΡΩΣΗΣ ΘΥΜΑΤΩΝ ΕΓΚΛΗΜΑΤΙΚΟΤΗΤΑΣ - **METHE**)

The METHE was established under the guidance of the Laboratory of Urban Criminology of Panteion University. It operates within the framework of the Municipality of Piraeus.

It is an independent one-stop shop for victimization, where victims of any type of criminal actions can receive aid, support, and information from a multidisciplinary team.





On site, there are

- 2 social workers
- 1 psychologist
- 1 lawyer
- 2 volunteers

that are there to:

- carry out individual evaluations and psychological counseling,
- refer and orient the victim to pertinent bodies,
- provide legal advice and guidance on rights, laws, and information on practical and/or bureaucratic procedures.

Key moments:

- **May 2021:** establishment of the Crime Victims Information Unit (METHE)
- **September 2021:** general meeting in the Piraeus Town Hall to inform about services available and to define frameworks of cooperation with other local entities.
- **July 2021:** 1st training session to the staff of the METHE



The METHE is on its early stages of implementation, and it has an ambitious program to connect with stakeholders of Piraeus, share expertise, and support victims of different crimes. Local stakeholders involved at the moment are:

- The Prosecutor of the Court of First Instance of Piraeus
- The Municipal Police
- The Piraeus Local Council of Crime Prevention (LCCP)
- The Directorate of the Piraeus Police
- The Piraeus Commercial Association
- The Piraeus Forensics Service
- The Piraeus Bar Association
- The Piraeus Directorate of Education
- The Protection Company for Minors
- The Holy Metropolis Church of Piraeus
- The addiction treatment centre "KETHEA NOSTOS"
- The municipal service for public benefit
- The UNESCO group of Piraeus & islands
- The Women counseling center of Piraeus
- The "Smile of the Child - Center for Immediate Social and Medical Intervention"
- The Emfasis Foundation (non-profit) (supports and relieves people experiencing multiple forms of homelessness – Attica region)
- The Piraeus Directorate of Kindergartens
- Women's Counseling Center of Salamina (neighboring municipality)
- The expanded Piraeus Community Centre

In the European context...

The Victims of Crime Directive of the European Parliament (2012/29/EU) establishes the standards on the rights, support, and protection of victims of crime.

With the establishment of the METHE through the BSFS project, the municipality of Piraeus takes a step towards the integration of innovative practices of restorative justice. It brings European standards for the protection of victims to a local level.

Furthermore, it integrates a wider network of similar initiatives put into place in other European countries (such as France, Finland, and Germany).

For more information:

<https://www.bsfs-piraeus.eu/press-releases/press-release-the-establishment-of-the-crime-victims-information-unit-of-the-municipality-of-piraeus/>

<https://www.bsfs-piraeus.eu/news/the-1st-training-session-to-the-staff-of-the-victim-information-unit-of-the-municipality-of-piraeus-was-completed/>

https://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/victims-crime-directive-201229eu_en

<https://uia-initiative.eu/en/uia-cities/piraeus>



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